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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF WATER-SOLUBLE HIGH-MOLECULAR WEIGHT COMPOUND

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain the titled compd. without the necessity of a filtration step, by a method wherein a fine powder of brown algae is dissolved in an alkaline liquid, an acid is added to the resulting liquid or a bivalent or polyvalent metal salt other than Mg is added to the liquid to obtain a precipitate, and a compd. composed mainly of an alkali metal alginate is produced from the precipitate by a conventional method.

CONSTITUTION: Brown algae is pulverized to a particle size of 100 mesh or above. The resulting powder is dissolved in an alkaline liquid having a pH of 9 or higher. An acid is added to the resulting alkaline liquid to precipitate alginic acid. Alternatively, a bivalent or polyvalent metal salt other than Mg is added to said liquid to precipitate a water-insoluble metal salt of alginic acid. Then a compd. composed mainly of an alkali metal alginate is produced from the precipitate by a conventional method. In this way, a product which can be used as well as the purified alkali metal alginate, can be obtd. at low cost without the necessity of a filtration step.

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